

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

August 5, 1948

COLLECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

~~RETAIN OR DESTROY~~

To

American Diplomatic and Consular Officers.

Sirs:

The Central Intelligence Agency has undertaken to maintain and develop, as a common service to the departments and agencies of the Government, a comprehensive collection of photographs and pictorial material (exclusive of aerial photographs) on foreign areas. The nucleus of the Central Intelligence Agency collection is the collection developed during the war years by the Office of Strategic Services, with which have been combined other smaller collections, such as that of the Institute of Inter-American Affairs.

In order to be of maximum effective use to Government agencies, it is essential that this collection be built up by the continuous receipt of photographs of foreign areas from all available sources. To this end the services and assistance of Foreign Service posts are desired.

You are requested to forward to the Department representative photographs covering the subjects listed below, as they may become available. The pictorial coverage desired may be found in travel folders, magazines, periodicals, newspapers, or other pictorial publications which contain reproducible photographic material, as well as photographs taken by private individuals. It is hoped that Foreign Service officers, aware of the value of pictorial material and of the existence of a central organization to collect and service such material, may be encouraged to exercise their own initiative and to take and forward photographs as opportunity is afforded.

The following list indicates in general terms the subjects on which photographic coverage is desired. As a general rule, photographs of installations and buildings taken prior to 1945 are not desired, although pictures of terrain prior to 1945 are useful and should be forwarded. Typical tourist views of cities, principal squares, scenic views, etc., need not be forwarded, since they will have already been published in magazines and newspapers and included in the collection. However, even in these well-covered cities there will be areas,

particularly

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particularly the industrial district, on which pictures would be welcome. It is desirable that as much information as possible be given for each picture forwarded, including the location, the date, time of day, and an identification of the objects in the picture.

A. Photographs of foreign persons of significance or potential significance to the American Government, including military, political, industrial, scientific, engineering personalities, labor leaders and journalists. (It is not necessary to duplicate photographs forwarded with Biographic Data Report Form, FSS No. 405, since such photographs are made available in Washington to the Photographic Division of CIA.)

B. Cities and their environs:

1. Streets and buildings - general street scenes, showing width, paving, condition of streets, and types of buildings; general scenes showing size and types of buildings, general construction, roofs; important buildings, hotels, public buildings, schools, public squares and market places, etc.
2. Transportation.
  - (a) Railroads - terminals, switchyards, freight yards, roundhouses and repair shops. Pictures of engines and other rolling stock.
  - (b) City transit system - streetcar lines, busses, etc.
  - (c) Air transport facilities - any airfields in existence, showing equipment, facilities, types of planes in use; land around airfields usable for extending field.
3. Communications - radio stations; telephone exchanges; poles and wires.
4. Harbor facilities and shipping - Port facilities: or pictures showing channels, types of boats in use, size of anchorage, docks, cranes, warehouses, sheds, ship repair facilities, dry docks, etc. Open roadsteads, lighters, small craft.
5. Utilities - water supply pipelines, aqueducts, reservoirs, water towers, ice and cold-storage plants, electric plants showing size of installations, fuel storage, oil and gasoline storage tanks.
6. Repair shops - foundries; machine shops; electrical repair shops; general metal shops.
7. City environs - terrain; vegetation; landing fields, etc; land use - cattle grazing, crops, etc.; approaches to the cityroad, river, etc.; bridges in the city and leading toward the city.

C. Other subjects:

1. Transportation - river shipping, difficulties of navigation, fueling facilities, loading and unloading, portages; roads, road surfaces, road cuts, difficulties of motor transportation, road construction, bridges and ferries, etc.; railroad right-of-way, bridges, rolling stock, etc.

2. Manufacturing

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2. Manufacturing and extraction plants - sawmills, quarries, mines, fisheries, etc.

There are instructions already outstanding to Foreign Service posts which, inter alia, request the submission of photographs as exhibits or enclosures to reports on certain subjects. Among these instructions are the following:

Foreign Service Serial No.	Title
235	Non-Agricultural Commodity and Industry Reports.
288	Electric Power Facilities
332	Telecommunications Reporting
598	Petroleum Reporting
738	Agricultural Reports
794	Reporting on Civil Aviation

It is desired that, whenever photographs which fall within the categories listed under A, B, and C, above, are submitted in accordance with these Foreign Service Serials that one additional set of such photographs also be forwarded, marked for the Photographic Division, CIA.

Very truly yours,

For the Secretary of State:

W. PARK ARMSTRONG JR